RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
JAN 31 2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An interface between two or more devices each having a data store, wherein each device is in communication with one or more of the other devices, said interface being configured to generate ~~comprising~~ a datastream including at least one metavariable, said metavariable being indicative of ~~at least~~ two or more parameters of ~~a device~~ at least one of the devices, and said datastream occurring between the data store of one transmitting device and ~~to~~ the data store of one or more receiving devices, wherein at least one of the parameters defines one or more rendering characteristics to be applied to a print job.

2. (Original) The interface of claim 1, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of the configuration and settings of the transmitting device.

3. (Original) The interface of claim 1, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of the configuration and settings of the receiving device.

4. (Original) The interface of claim 1, wherein said metavariable is a command altering two or more settings of the receiving device upon receipt of said metavariable by the receiving device.

5. (Original) The interface of claim 1, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of two or more application settings of the transmitting device.

6. (Original) The interface of claim 1, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of two or more application settings of the receiving device.

7. (Original) The interface of claim 1, wherein said interface is between one or more computers and one or more printers, each computer and each printer having a data store.

8. (Original) The interface of claim 7, wherein said metavariable is a command to the printer changing two or more settings of the printer.

9. (Original) The interface of claim 7, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of the printer settings transmitted by the printer to one or more receiving host computers.

10. (Currently Amended) A metavariable for use in an interface between two or more devices, each device communicating descriptive information, said metavariable indicative of ~~at least~~ two or more parameters of ~~a device~~ at least one of the devices, wherein at least one of the parameters defines one or more rendering characteristics to be applied to a print job.

11. (Original) The metavariable of claim 10, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of the configuration and settings of a device.

12. (Original) The metavariable of claim 10, wherein said metavariable is a command altering two or more settings of a device upon receipt of said metavariable by the device.

13. (Original) The metavariable of claim 11, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of two or more application settings of a device.

14. (Original) The metavariable of claim 13, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of two or more settings of a printer.

15. (Original) The metavariable of claim 13, wherein said metavariable is a command to a printer changing two or more settings of the printer.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of communication between two or more devices each having a data store and a processor, each device in a communication interface with one or more of the other devices, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a at least one metavariable in a transmitting device, the metavariable being indicative of ~~at least~~ two or more parameters of ~~a device~~ at least one of the devices;

transmitting the metavariable to one or more other receiving devices through the communication interface;

receiving the metavariable at a receiving device; and

processing the metavariable in the receiving device for evaluation of action required in response to receipt of the metavariable;

wherein at least one of the parameters defines one or more rendering characteristics to be applied to a print job.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the steps of processing a metavariable in a transmitting device and transmitting the metavariable are processing the metavariable in a printer and transmitting the metavariable from a printer.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the steps of receiving the metavariable at a receiving device and processing the metavariable are receiving and processing the metavariable at a host computer.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the steps of processing a metavariable in a transmitting device and transmitting the metavariable are processing a metavariable in a host computer and transmitting the metavariable from the host computer.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the steps of receiving the metavariable at a receiving device and processing the metavariable are receiving and processing the metavariable at a printer.

21. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of transmitting the metavariable to one or more other devices is transmitting a metavariable that is a command to alter two or move parameters of the receiving device.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of transmitting the metavariable to one or more other devices is transmitting a metavariable that is data indicative of the configuration and settings of the transmitting device.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a communication interface between a plurality of devices, said system comprising:

a transmitting device having a first data store, said transmitting device having two or more parameters associated therewith;

at least one receiving device having a second data store, said receiving device having two or more parameters associated therewith; and

wherein said transmitting device transmits a data stream from said first data store to said second data store of said receiving device, said data stream including at least one metavariable, said metavariable being indicative of the two or more parameters of either said transmitting device or said receiving device;

wherein at least one of the parameters defines one or more rendering characteristics to be applied to a print job.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of two or more configurations and settings of the transmitting device.

25. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of two or more configurations and settings of the receiving device.

26. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said metavariable is a command altering two or more settings of the receiving device upon receipt of said metavariable by the receiving device.

27. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of two or more application settings of the transmitting device.

28. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of two or more application settings of the receiving device.

29. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein one of said transmitting device and said receiving device is a host computer, and the other of said transmitting device and said receiving device is a printer.

30. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said metavariable is a command from a transmitting host computer to a receiving printer, said metavariable changing two or more settings of the printer.

31. (Original) The system of claim 29, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of the printer settings, said metavariable transmitter by a transmitting printer to one or more receiving host computers.

32. (Currently Amended) A metavariable for use in an interface between two or more devices, each device communicating descriptive information, said metavariable being indicative of ~~at least~~ one or more native parameters ~~variables~~ of a device; wherein at least one of the parameters defines one or more rendering characteristics to be applied to a print job.

33. (Original) The metavariable of claim 32, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of the configuration and settings of a device.

34. (Original) The metavariable of claim 32, wherein said metavariable is a command altering one or more settings of a device upon receipt of said metavariable by the device.

35. (Original) The metavariable of claim 32, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of one or more application settings of a device.

36. (Original) The metavariable of claim 32, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of one or more settings of a printer.

37. (Original) The metavariable of claim 32, wherein said metavariable is a command to a printer changing one or more settings of the printer.

38. (Currently Amended) An interface between two or more processes occurring upon a device having at least one data store, each process in communication with one or more of the other processes, through, directly or indirectly, the data store(s) of the device, said interface being configured to generate ~~comprising~~ a datastream including at least one metavariable, said metavariable being indicative of ~~at least~~ one or more parameters of the device, and said datastream occurring between one transmitting process and one or more receiving processes, wherein at least one of the parameters defines one or more rendering characteristics to be applied to a print job.

39. (Original) The interface of claim 38, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of the configuration and settings of the device.

40. (Original) The interface of claim 38, wherein said metavariable is data indicative of one or more application settings of the device.

41. (Original) The interface of claim 38, wherein said metavariable is a command altering one or more settings of the device upon receipt of said metavariable by the receiving process.

42. (Previously Presented) The interface of claim 1, wherein the metavariable is treated as a single, simple variable containing data cumulative of variables for each parameter. - -

43. (Previously Presented) The metavariable of claim 10, wherein the metavariable is treated as a single, simple variable containing data cumulative of variables for each parameter.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the metavariable is treated as a single, simple variable containing data cumulative of variables for each parameter.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the metavariable is treated as a single, simple variable containing data cumulative of variables for each parameter.

46. (Previously Presented) The metavariable of claim 32, wherein the metavariable is treated as a single, simple variable containing data cumulative of variables for each parameter.

47. (Previously Presented) The interface of claim 38, wherein the metavariable is treated as a single, simple variable containing data cumulative of variables for each parameter.